The Bible And Daily Living

The assurance of victory

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER

Assurance Of Victory
Lesson for February 1, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Matthew 13:24-35

Introduction

One day I made a pastoral visit to an elderly lady in a former congregation. Though she had seen me on numerous occasions, this particular day she was confused and mistook me for her life insurance agent. She began to show me her policies when I interrupted and said, "Mrs. S., I'm not your life insurance man, I'm your life assurance man!"

Life insurance may be something we have in ample supply, but life assurance may be where we feel less secure. There are no assurances for the earthly pilgrim except that God will ultimately reign over all evil. One thing we can be sure of, namely, the Kingdom of God will ultimately supercede the kingdom of evil.

In his parables, Jesus reveals the victorious assurance of the kingdom. He used earthly stories with heavenly meanings to reveal the insurance and assurance of God's reign.

A Mixed Bag [Matthew 24-30]

Life is a mixed bag of bitters and sweets. Good and evil mingle together and struggle for dominance. Jesus tells a parable that describes how good will win out over evil. This parable focuses upon "last things" and the judgment of God.

This parable is a picture of life as we know and experience it. Evil is very prevalent and seeks to do us in. The key to this parable is the harvest concept where there will be a great separation. But we can go a step further with this parable and talk about how wheat (good) and weeds (evil) can coexist together.

The parable seems to imply that the outcome of things is God's business, and that he can do a better job of judgment than we can do. He is certainly more fair in his judgments than we tend to be!

A Picture Of The Kingdom [Matthew 13:31-33]

Jesus shares with us another parable that focuses upon the growth of the kingdom. In this parable Jesus draws from nature and agriculture to describe the kingdom. He describes the mustard seed as the smallest of all seeds. The word "Small" in the Greek text is MICKROTERON from which we get our word microscope. Thus, the central idea of this parable is that small beginnings have great endings.

The kingdom of God had small beginnings but grew to larger and larger proportions. Out of seemingly insignificant beginnings God forms his might kingdom to embrace all who would care to enter. Thus, just as a tiny seed sprouts to become a large tree, so the kingdom graduates from small beginnings to magnificent endings.

God continues to bring about his kingdom through all the small things that his people are doing in the world. Everyone who mirrors Christ in word or deed, no matter how small, is helping to bring the kingdom on earth.

Why Parables? [Matthew 13:-34-35]

The parables are essential for understanding the teachings of Jesus. They are not something that Jesus dreamed up. The parables can be characterized as existential (recognizing the personal and individual nature of persons), eschatological (having to do with last things), ethical and evangelical.

The parables seek to accomplish five tasks:

1. They reveal the character of the "Good News".
2. They reveal the nature of Jesus' preaching.
3. They call persons to repentance.
4. They reveal the conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees.
5. They sensitize persons toward spiritual concerns.

Some have accused Jesus of never offering interpretation of his parables. This is unfair because numerous parables were quite obviously addressed to his hearers, especially the disciples. Others were not readily understandable. They were indeed intended for those who "had eyes to see and ears to hear."

Jesus used his parables to stimulate interest in what he was saying, not to make his message obscure. He constantly sought to make the message of the kingdom appealing and interesting, which is something all preachers and laypersons should strive for.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

Letter

The recent death of John Lennon, Dr. Halberstram and othes at the hands of criminal assassins have unleashed a new barrage of anti-gun propaganda. The fuzzy minded liberals and their more clear thinking radical friends of the left are dusting off and employing the same old time-worn cliches and emotional appeals which have been used over and over in the past so often that they really don't deserve serious consideration.

As is patently clear, disarming the citizens of this country will certainly not reduce the incidents of crime but on the contrary will encourage the criminal by rendering his defenseless. One doesn't have to be a Harvard graduate to understand this so what is it that motivates the gun control crowd?

Perhaps the answer can be found in the word "control". Historically it has been demonstrated that to impose dictatorship on a populace there are several factors which must be controlled, which include the police force, the citizen's arms and his mobility. Of these gun control is the most important as illustrated by the fact that one of Hitler's first acts in solidifying his control over German people was to confiscate their arms.

The founding fathers clearly forsaw this danger when they added the Second Amendment to the Constitution which states that in no uncertain terms that "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The intent and meaning of this statement is clear regardless of any interpretations made by leftists, lawyers, and Supreme Court judges.

We, the citizens, will maintain our Second Amendment rights at all costs and we expect our elected representatives to live up to their oath of office and protect that Constitutional right.

Sincerely,
James B. Hutt, Jr. M.D.
Warrenton, Va.

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Claude Anderson reports

By CLAUDE W. ANDERSON

We are about to finish our first full week here and the pace has quickened considerably. Just in the Finance Committee of the House, we have 87 bills which we must consider by the first week in February.

Once again, several bills have been introduced in attempts to reduce or remove the three percent state sales tax on food. One of these was killed in committee yesterday, though another will be considered which will reduce the tax to two percent.

Another "old" issue which is back before the Privileges and Elections Committee, on which I serve, is the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. There has been no election since last year, so the composition of the Committee is exactly the same, which leads me to believe that it does not have any chance of passing.

The many break-ins and thefts that are and have been occuring have generated several bills both on the House and Senate sides dealing with the state regulation of dealers in precious metals. The problem has reached the point where a critical situation exists throughout the state. These bills will be handled in the House and Senate General Laws Committees.

Another very serious crime which is being addressed by the General Assembly this year is rape. The House Committee for Courts of Justice approved revisions to Virginia's rape laws yesterday after several years of study. The primary concern has been the fact that victims have been hesitant about reporting rape because of fear about the trial and the kitds of questions she might be asked to answer. The bill's intent is to try to give more consideration to the victim who has experienced this heinous crime.

We were saddened this week by the loss of one of our members, Dr. William Robinson, who represented the City of Norfolk. He had served with me since 1970.

As always, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me whenever I can be of assistance. My phone number is 804-786-6608.

State taxpayers will pay more than $17 billion

Virginia taxpayers will have to contribute over $17 billion to former President Carter's proposed $739.3 billion federal budget for fiscal year 1982 beginning next October 1. The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce's estimate is based on the caluclation that Virginia taxpayers bear 2.32 percent of all federal taxes.

Dividing $17 billion by 5.3 million, or the number of people in Virginia, yields a figure of just over $3,200 as the share for each man, woman and child in Virginia. Naturally, any substantial changes Congress may make in Carter's budget will reduce or increase the share Virginians will have to pay.

By contrast, Virginia's state government is operating on a budget of $11.6 billion for the 1980-82 biennium. This two-year budget is nearly $6 billion less than the state's share of the one-year proposed federal budget.

In addition to the familiar individual income tax, the following federal taxes will be levied on Virginians: corporate income tax; estate and gift taxes; excise taxes on alcoholic beverages, tobacco, customs, etc.; trust fund taxes, including Social Security; motor vehicle fuel and highway user taxes; and airport and airway taxes.

The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce has not attempted to determine how much of the projected $27.5 billion deficit – money to be spent in fiscal 1982 but not collected – will be borne by Virginians.

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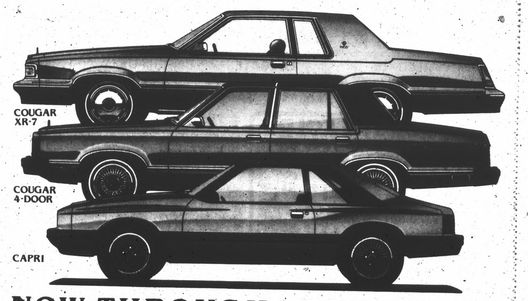

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Times-Virginian Social News

Photo by Joe Vaughan

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gardner

Wed in double ring ceremony

On January 3, 1981 at 2 p.m. Gladys MacIntosh and Bernard Gardner were wed in a double-ring ceremony at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Appomattox, the Rev. Edward Leonard officiating.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Darryl MacIntosh. She wore a winter-white velvet suit with a dark green crepe blouse and carried a bouquet of red and white silk poinsettias.

Mrs. Evelyn Gallup of Schoharie, New York, sister of the bride was matron of honor. She wore a dark green velvet suit with an eggshell satin blouse and carried a bouquet similar to that of the bride.

Best man was Kenneth Ezzell of Concord, friend of the groom. Ushers were Keith and Neal Leonard of Appomattox.

The couple is residing in Atlanta, Georgia.

Birth announced

Bobby and Sue Waddell announce the birth of a son, Christopher Daniel, born Nov. 28, 1980 at Virginia Baptist Hospital. He weighed eight pounds, three ounces at birth, and was 20 inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Norris Pool, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Alas Waddell of Rustburg. Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. Willie Scott of Lynchburg.

The couple have another son, Jeremy, age 23 months.

Sweetheart dance planned

The Delta Zeta chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority will sponsor its annual Sweetheart Dance" on Friday, Feb. 13 at the Avalon Club.

Music will be provided by "Legend," formerly "Lynchburg Express."

Proceeds are used for various service projects supported by the sorority during the year. Tickets are $12 per couple. For more information, contact Christine knight, Nancy Elder, or Phyllis Smith.

Announce birth

Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Blackwell are proud to announce the birth of their first-born child, a son, Steven Brent.

Brent was born December 5, 1980 at Virginia Baptist Hospital and weighed 7 lbs. and ½ oz.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. James A. Gowin of Appomattox. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Blackwell of Spout Spring.

Maternal great-grandmother is Mrs. E. T. Layne, Sr. of Appomattox.

Wedding date announced

The wedding of Vickie Lynn Handy to Robert L. Fish will be an event of February 14 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Appomattox Baptist Temple.

A reception will follow the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the church.

Although no invitations are being sent, friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend.

Homemakers celebrate

Not many local ladies were in Washington to attend the Inauguration but 25 Appomattox Homemakers met in the home of Lina and Florence Trent, with Mrs. Louise Plunkett as co-hostess.

After two hours of socializing and network viewing, a lovely lunch was served. This patriotic program was even more enjoyable when news came of the freeing of the hostages.

Every member left with a U.S. flag in her hair or on her lapel, and more proud of being an American.

May God bless our Homemakers who help make a better America.

Birth announced

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey K. Brown proudly announce the birth of their first child, a son, Jeffrey Scott, born on December 31, 1980 at the Virginia Baptist Hospital in Lynchburg. He weighed eight pounds and four ounces. Mrs. Brown is the former Debra Netherland.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Netherland, Jr. of Richmond, formerly of Appomattox.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. S. David Brown of Lynchburg.

To hold macrame workshop

The Oakville Extension Homemakers are sponsoring a Macrame Workshop at Oakville School, Thursday, Feb. 5, 12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m. Shirley Walton, Extension Agent, and others will be there to give instruction. Everyone is invited. Come out and learn this interesting craft.

Miss Pamela Kay Shrock

Announce engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Dale D. Shrock of Appomattox announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela Kay, to Dennis Allen Franklin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Franklin.

Miss Shrock is a 1980 graduate of Appomattox County High School and is presently employed with Miller and Rhodes in Lynchburg.

Mr. Franklin is a 1979 graduate of Appomattox County High School and is presently employed with Lynchburg Vending Incorporated.

The wedding will be held at Spout Spring Baptist Church on February 7 at 2:00.

Friends, and relatives are invited to attend.

Woman's club to meet

The Appomattox Womens Club will meet Monday evening, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Triangle Plaza branch of Farmers National Bank.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Mrs. Shirley Walton, VPI extension agent.

Reunion planned

A reunion for the students of the old Garver-Price school is being planned for the coming months.

All former students are welcome and urged to attend this event.

For further information on the reunion, contact Carl Moore (352-7204) or Lewis Fitch (237-3689).

Society News

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Listander were weekend guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Franklin.

* * *

Mrs. Joe Allen and Mrs. Marie Davis of Richmond were dinner guests in the home of their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. W. DeWitt Harvey of Rt. 1, Appomattox on Saturday.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craddock of Virginia Beach, spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. M. D. (Andy) Anderson and also visited Mrs. Craddock's mother, Mrs. Janie Chernault.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson, Mrs. Janie Chernault and Jimmy and Clark Chernault visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lindy Hamlett of Farmville on Sunday of last week.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ollie C. Hall have returned home after attending the funeral of his brother, Jasper Hall of Pigua, Ohio.

Honored with party

On Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. 10 children all of which are neighbors of J. L. (Jim) Collins, surprised him with a party at the home of Marguette Jordan.

Each of the children brought some refreshments, enough for all who were present.

Among those attending were: David Woody, Jennifer (Ginger) Cash, Robby Jones, Hill Hogan, Charles Hogan, Kathy Higgins, Jennifer Jamerson, Jr. Cash, Thomas Jamerson, Jennifer Cyrus and Mrs. Homie Dalton who helped to entertain the group with her renditions on the harmonica.

Mrs. Jordan was more than pleased with the way the children planned the party and the most wonderful behavior and manners that they all showed.

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